with the logo of National Geographic. And, thirdly, we should be able to air these programmes on Doordarshan and on all regional channels in regional languages. I must say that National Geographic accepted all these three conditions.

Now, we have a programme on National Geographic, which can be aired immediately after it, on Doordarshan as well as all regional channels. Not only that, I have made sure that there will be CDs made out of it, DVDs made out of it in thousands and they will be sent to each school so that children in schools can see these programmes on television. We reach school children, which is the central to this enterprise.

Sir, the hon. Member raised a very pertinent point and we were aware of it. Sir, the reason as to why we went to National Geographic is because National Geographic is a global brand, National Geographic produces excellent science programmes, which no other channel produces, and, National Geographic shows no advertisements. So, what we are doing is; we are giving the material, we are paying for the programme but we have the copyright and we can use it in any manner we like. Sir, National Geographic has its reach not only in India but in South Asia and the Middle East also. So, the reach is much larger, through the TRP is only 1.8 considering that it has about 9 million viewers.

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIYA: Will they be sent to schools as well?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I have already answered this question.

Legislation to regulate MPLADS

*267. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a legislation to regulate Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme in view of the discovery of certain corrupt practices being resorted to; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) The reply is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No Sir. Government do not intend to enact legislation to regulate Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, due to certain unpleasant things that happened with respect to MPLAD funds, there were talks—I would say rather irrational talks—regarding closing down of the MPLAD scheme. Sir, just because we get the cold, we don't cut the nose and just because there is a rat in the house, we don't burn the house. When we are spending crores of crores, why should crores of rupees be spent under scheme. As far as floods and riots are concerned, now we have a Disaster Management Act because a scheme cannot regulate crores of rupees. Therefore, why should not we have a proper legislation to regulate MPLAD scheme? Sir, what are the new things or the guidelines that the Government feels that there should not be a law?

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, generally, schemes like the MPLAD Scheme are not brought under an enactment. I understand the hon. Member's sincere concern for this. We all know that the amount involved in this MPLAD scheme is huge. But I would like to say that the Government is constantly revising the guidelines to check corruption and misuse of funds and to show perfect transparency.

Sir, I can clearly say that the requirements that we have asked for, with regard to the MPLAD scheme, *e.g.*, the utilisation certificate and the audit certificates; are the steps taken in this direction. The Ministry has sought the view of Hon. Members, Central Ministers and the State Governments to further streamline the MPLAD scheme. I am sure that in the coming days, we will have a better-managed scheme. Hence, an enactment to regulate this scheme is not considered necessary at this stage.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, again, because there is no statute governing this scheme, there is some confusion. There is a guideline that says that no MPLAD project can be sanctioned in a property belonging to a religious institution. Sir, these guidelines are there but nobody is taking it seriously. Had there been a law, people would have taken it seriously. Now, I would like to know as to what is the exact stand of the Ministry with respect to the projects which are sought to be constructed in the area, or, property belonging to a religious institution and whether there are any violations in this regard.

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, I would like to be very clear and say that any work in a temple, a church or a mosque is not allowed without the

knowledge of the Ministry. I understand why the hon. Member made this statement. It is because he hails from the State of Goa. In north Goa, a community hall was allowed without the knowledge of the Ministry, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the case is going on and I will give the details to the hon. Member. But, as per the MPLAD Scheme guidelines, work in the name of religion or worship is not allowed. I want to be very categorical and clear about it. I would even say that in the MPLADS book, which we have given for the guidelines, the list of prohibited works is given. It is the 13th item. In that, it is very clear that this is not allowed.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Hon. Chairman, Sir, as there is a doubt in the minds of the hon. Members, so, the hon. Minister has stated that the scheme will continue and the hon. Members will be able to see development in their respective constituency. In that, I would like to give one suggestion which I want the hon. Minister to consider. Funding these private schools and private hospitals and some of the NGOs is resulting in the misuse of funds. ...*(Interruptions)*... I want to say that it should be funded only through the Government agencies. ...*(Interruptions)*... It should be funded through the Government agencies. The hon. Members of Parliament should recommend only for the Government schemes. It should not be done for private agencies or NGOs or private trusts. Therefore, I want the hon. Minister to review the guidelines.

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, in general, in the new guidelines given in November, 2005, it is clearly told that drinking water, education, public health and funds for development of SC/ST have to be given priority. It is given in para 2.4 in the guidelines. I hope Hon. Members will follow this in the coming days so that there will be no problem.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: No, no. I am asking that it should not be there for the private schools and private trusts. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G.K. VASAN: I think, the Ministry will go as per the guidelines. ...*(Interruptions)*...

डा॰ एम॰एस॰ गिल: सभापति महोदय, यह मामला मेरे ख्याल से सब के इंटरेस्ट का है और ये भी जानते हैं और सारी पार्टियां जानती हैं कि जो एम॰पी॰ है, चाहे उसकी अपनी ही सरकार स्टेट में हो, वहां एम॰पी॰ को मेरे ख्याल से कोई पूछता नहीं है। वे क्या करें, क्योंकि लोग उनसे कहते हैं कि फॉरेन पॉलिसी का हमको नहीं पूछना है, हमको तो चाहिए डवलपमेंट का और हमारे जो भी गांव का या शहर का या कस्बे का या गली का। तो मैं यह देख रहा हूं कि कुछ देर से महापुरुष,

मैं नाम नहीं लूंगा, उसमें सब आते हैं, वे कह रहे हैं कि इसको बन्द कर दो, इसको एकदम निकाल दो। मैं अर्ज करुंगा कि क्या मंत्री जी यह सोचेंगे कि अगर एम॰पी॰ लेड फंड में क्योंकि लीकेज कहीं-कहीं है, बेकसूर तो हम भी नहीं कहते कि सारी दुनिया हो सकती है, इंसान गलती कर सकता है। अगर यह लीकेज हो रही है तो इसको आप बंद करेंगे किसी स्टेज पर, क्योंकि एक क्लास प्रेस ने भी, एक क्लास लीडरान भी कह रही है। तो क्या गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया का सारा डवलपमेंट फंड, डवलपमेंट बजट और हर एक स्टेट का डवलपमेंट बजट भी आप बंद कर देंगे, क्योंकि उसमें भी लीकेज है। राजीव गांधी जी कह गए हैं, राजीव गांधी जी का फिगर आपको याद ही है, तो क्या यह बताएंगे कि क्या करेंगे?

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, I would like to say that there is no proposal to close down the MPLAD Scheme at all. In fact, the Ministry is trying to improve the standards of the scheme with transparency, without corruption with the guidelines which we have given.

डा॰ नारायण सिंह मानकलाव: सभापति महोदय, एम॰पी॰ लैड फंड के बारे में बताया गया है कि इसको बंद नहीं किया जाएगा। हमारे एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि एन॰जी॰ओज॰ को नहीं दिया जाए। उनकी जो यह बात है, उसके बारे में मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या कोई ऐसा विचार है जो यह कहता हो कि एन॰जी॰ओज॰ को नहीं दिया जाए, क्योंकि अपने क्षेत्र में बहुत ही अच्छा काम करने वाले एन॰जी॰ओज॰ भी हैं और वे इतना अच्छा काम कर रहे हैं, जिन्हें भी इस प्रकार के सहयोग की आवश्यकता है। क्या मंत्री महोदय ऐसा सोच रहे हैं कि एन॰जी॰ओज॰ को डिबार किया जाए?

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, the Ministry has not taken any negative decision in what the hon. Member has said. I would only like to inform the House that in the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, the percentage of utilisation of funds has gone up to 89 per cent. At the same time, the percentage of work completed or sanctioned has gone up to 88 per cent. I can only say there is an improvement in the scheme.

श्री तारिक अनवर: सर, MPLADS के बारे में मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि इसमें काफी इम्प्रूवमेंट हुआ है, लेकिन हम लोग अपने क्षेत्र में देखते हैं कि काफी सब-स्टैंडर्ड ढंग से काम किया जाता है। हम लोगों द्वारा शिकायत करने के बाद भी उस पर कोई कार्यवाही नहीं होती है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या इस बात का कोई प्रावधान है कि जो MPLAD से स्कीम ली जाती है, उसकी क्वालिटी के खिलाफ जो शिकायत आती है, क्या कोई कार्यवाही आज तक किसी अधिकारी के खिलाफ हुई है? यह मैं जानना चाहता हूं।

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, the monitoring of work under this Scheme is a very important aspect. We are all well aware of it, the role of district authorities especially in inspecting and monitoring the work regularly is a must. The Ministry is very concerned about it. Any report or any complaint from the hon. Members is taken up immediately, and my Ministry is in touch with the district officials regarding this. Whatever complaints we are getting, we are talking to concerned authorities, and if more and more complaints come regarding Members of Parliament, the guidelines will be strictly followed under this Scheme and action will be taken.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: थैंक्यू सर। सर, मुझे इसलिए खड़ा होना पड़ा है कि हमारे आदरणीय सदस्य डा॰ गिल साहब ने कहा है कि कुछ महापुरुष हैं, जिन्होंने इस MPLADS का विरोध किया और हम उन गुनहगारों में महापुरुष हैं या महापुरुषनी हैं या जो भी आप कहना चाहें या जनता के पक्ष की पुरुष या महिला हैं, मैं इसकी डिटेल में नहीं जा रही हूं। लेकिन हां, सर, हमारी पार्टी की स्पष्ट समझ और नीति है कि हमने बार-बार इस बात को दोहराया है कि MPLADS भ्रष्टाचार का एक स्रोत है। ...(**व्यवधान**)... मुझे मालूम है ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सर, नहीं-नहीं। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: सर, सच कड़वा होता है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, मैं जानती हूं कि ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री वी॰ हनुमंत राव: सर, यह गलत है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, ...(**व्यवधान**)... सर, कभी-कभी ...(**व्यवधान**)... सर, मैं मानती हूं कि कभी-कभी ...(**व्यवधान**)... ...(**व्यवधान**)... सर, मैं हाथ जोड़कर बोलती हूं कि मुझे बोलने दीजिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)... सर, मैं मानती हूं कभी-कभी ...(**व्यवधान**)... सर, मैं बंगाल से एम॰पी॰ हूं। ...(**व्यवधान**)... मैं बंगाल से एम॰पी॰ हूं और कभी-कभी रवीन्द्र नाथ टेगोर का एकला चालो रे, यह हमारे ऊपर लागू होता है। ...(**व्यवधान**)... मैं जानती हूं, लेकिन यह दोहराना जरूरी है ...(**व्यवधान**)... क्योंकि हमने यह देखा, उसको जो अमल में हम लाते हैं, ...(**व्यवधान**)... मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि हम मॉनिटरिंग स्कीम्स करवायेंगे, मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि हम अकाउंटेबिलिटी करवायेंगे, लेकिन आज तक न मॉनिटरिंग स्कीम्स हुई हैं, न कोई अकाउंटेबिलिटी हुई है और जनता के हित की बात इसमें नहीं है किसी व्यक्ति के पास पैसा हो, इसीलिए यह पैसा स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को दिया जाये। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को इस फंड के बारे में आप कुछ गाइडलाइन्स दीजिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति: एक मिनट। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: सर, इसके बारे में डिसकशन होना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)... Let us have a discussion on this subject.

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: सर, इसके बारे में डिसकशन करवा लीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: सर, इसके बारे में डिसकशन होना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)... Let there be a discussion on this subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question-Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Preparation for Commonwealth Games

†*268. DR. KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made adequate preparations for organizing Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of construction work carried out so far alongwith the amount spent by Government?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the smooth conduct of the Commonwealth Games, 2010, Government have made the following institutional arrangements:—

(i) A Core Group of Ministers for coordinating the work related to the Commonwealth Games, 2010 headed by the Minister for Human Resource Development.

(ii) Apex Committee headed by Minister (Youth Affairs and Sports) with overriding powers and responsibility for overseeing and coordinating the Commonwealth Games.

(iii) Organizing Committee headed by the President, Indian Olympic Association to conduct the Games.

(iv) Lt. Governor of Delhi to have overall responsibility regarding Security, Law & Order and matters under DDA.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.